Jillian Feeney

Chapter 4 Reflection

After reading chapter four in Foundations of American Education, I thought one of the more interesting things I learned was about the Eastern way of thinking. I have always gone to school in the United States and so I have only experienced the Western way of thinking that is described as empathizing on “logic and materialism” in the textbook. The Eastern way of learning is defined as “a varied set of ideas, beliefs, and values from the Far and Near East that stress peace, tranquility, attitudinal development, and mysticism. When a man has pity on all living creatures, then only he is noble.” The book gives examples. In Indian thought it is believed that the search for wisdom is important. And that knowledge should be improved to both social and communal life and that people should live according to their ideas. This is so different than the Western way of thinking, which in my opinion, is using knowledge to make one selves wealthier. Chinese thought is focused on harmony. Harmony should be found in government, business, and family. Again, this, in my opinion, is much different than the Western way of thinking. I feel like we do not focus on finding harmony and our lives are unbalanced, focusing more on work and money than family and friends. In closing, I believe we should adopt the Eastern way of thinking to better improve the quality of our lives.